IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-52, 58-71 and 89-90 have been cancelled.

Please cancel claims 53-57, 73 and 77 and amend claims 72, 74-76 and 88 to read as follows:

1. - 71. (Canceled).

72. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a self-authenticating ~~a~~ document, comprising:

providing a document stock having at least one anticounterfeit feature and having preprinted thereon~~,~~ ~~preprinting the document with~~ an essentially unique identifier;

~~defining a~~ providing information content for the document comprising at least one of text and graphic images;

generating ~~an associated~~ a digital signature of said information content; ~~for verification of the document content~~

producing a self-authenticating message comprising a cryptographic combination of the digital signature and ~~said~~ the essentially unique identifier; and

printing the information content and the ~~digital signature~~ self-authenticating message on the document stock by means of a computer printer.

73. (Canceled).

74. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~73~~ 75, further comprising the step of authenticating the document by verifying that the ~~digital signature~~ self-authenticating message corresponds to the ~~document~~ digital signature of the information content and the essentially unique identifier.

75. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving the ~~digital signature and authenticating the document by verifying that the digital signature corresponds to the document content and essentially unique identifier~~ information content and the self-authenticating message.

76. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein the anticounterfeit ~~features comprise~~ feature

comprises a set of visually distinct fibers in said document stock.

77. (Canceled).

78. (Original) The method according to claim 72, wherein the essentially unique identifier comprises a composite of a random portion and a predictable portion.

79. (Original) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of accounting to a content proprietor for a printing of the document.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein said accounting comprises issuing a request for the document content and electronic payment information; and receiving content and its associated digital signature.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein said preprinting step comprises printing with a computer printer using a non-secure communications channel.

82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein said printing step comprises printing with a said computer printer using a non-secure communications channel.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein said printing step comprises communicating the essentially unique identifier over a network to a server, receiving the document content over the network from the server, and printing the received content on the document stock.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein said providing and preprinting steps are conducted securely.

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the anticounterfeit features comprise at least one of a lithographed pattern printed on the document stock and an integral non-deterministic characteristic of the document stock.

86. (Original) The method according to claim 85, wherein the non-deterministic characteristic comprises a fiber pattern, further comprising the steps of recording the fiber pattern prior to said printing, and authenticating the document stock by comparing a consistency of the recorded fiber pattern with a fiber pattern determined at a time of authentication.

87. (Original) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of authenticating the document based on a public key-private key algorithm which authenticates the essentially unique identifier together with the document content.

88. (Currently Amended) An authenticatable recording medium, comprising:

a document stock having at least one counterfeit resistant ~~features~~ feature;

an imprinted ~~tamper-resistant~~ unique identifier on the document stock;

~~a~~ an information content recording surface with a blank area suitable for printing at least one of text and graphic

images by means of a computer printer and a blank area for printing a self-authenticating message;

information content recorded on the content recording surface, said information content defining a distinct identification element; and

a self-authenticating message recorded on the content recording surface for authenticating the recording medium with the information content and the ~~tamper resistant~~ unique identifier, said message comprising a cryptographic combination of the unique identifier and the distinct identification element.

89. - 90. (Canceled)

91. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium according to claim 88, further comprising an ascertainable integral non-deterministic characteristic of the document stock.

92. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium according to claim 91, wherein the non-deterministic characteristic comprises a fiber pattern.

93. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium according to claim 88, wherein the imprinted tamper resistant unique identifier comprises a predictable portion and a random portion.